



PYP GRADE 5 NEWSLETTER:

Unit Planner #2

November- December 2010-2011

"How We Share the Planet"

Central Idea:

Human intervention has effects and consequences on the balance of the ecosystem.

The students will inquire into the following:

- the effects and consequences of human intervention on an ecosystem
- means of protection and conservation of an ecosystem
- the interdependence between different elements of an ecosystem in order to maintain balance

Language and Science

Investigations and discussions will involve both the planet and animal world and human communities. Emphasis from the IB Student Profile will be on risk-taking, communication, empathy and inquiry.

In the Language Arts program we will read "Island of the Blue Dolphins", an historical fiction about survival, that will allow the students to learn about the interdependence and balance between elements of the ecosystem. Students will additionally respond to figurative language and voice, engage in the writing process and develop note taking and oral presentation skills. Interviews and book talks will extend into learning. In addition to these literacy skills, the students will also learn to identify different parts of the map and use a map to communicate ideas. Journals will be used to encourage reflection and to enhance their writing skills.

Further, students will use the computer lab to develop and apply technology skills, as well as utilize the "Smart Board" and "Mobile Lab" (laptops at their desks) as a research and learning tool.

Library

In groups, students will research about ecosystems and biomes have opportunities to complete a graphic organizer and share their findings.

Library skills this term will include:

- How to use reference for research
- Introduce research skills
- How to write a bibliography
- How to avoid plagiarism.

Key Concepts:

Causation and Responsibility

Student Profile and Attitudes:

Risk-Taking. Communication. Empathy.

Mathematics:

In the Math program, the students will have the opportunity to write and solve equations using both addition and multiplication, recognize the use of variables in algebraic expressions and use functions to solve problems. Multiplication skills will extend to both whole numbers and decimals. In the course of the planner, the students will review basic principles of geometry to identify, measure and construct different kinds of angles.

Please visit *The Learning Site* at: www.harcourtschool.com for additional strategies to help your child.

Music:

In music and dance class with Ms. Tatiana, students will take part in various activities and inquiries into the effect of human made noise and pollution on human behavior and well-being.

In Music class with Mr. Wafic, students will begin learning how to use and play Carl Orff percussion instruments in order to create their own orchestra and perform in public.

Art:

In Art class, the students will be introduced to two artists: Maria Sibyllan Merian and Giovana Garazoni. Maria Sibyllan Merian was a naturalist and scientific illustrator who studied and painted plants and insects. Giovana Garazoni created still life illustrations of fruits, vegetables and flowers. In class, students will be working individually and cooperatively to create illustrations of still life and three dimensional flowers.

Physical Education:

During the upcoming weeks, the Physical Education Program will develop the students' team spirit and cooperation skills while introducing the rules of team games such as basketball and dodge ball. Through various sporting activities, students will be able to demonstrate awareness of respect for principles of collective games such as behaving according to rules, and codes while listening and respecting others.

Arabic:

خلال هذا المحور، سنعمل على تنمية علاقة المتعلم بالبيئة، وتحديد دوره في حمايتها، وتسليط الضوء على واجباته تجاهها وذلك من خلال دراسته قصة "الجبل الذي أحبّ العصافير" وتحليله. كما سننظر إلى قراءة مقالات مختارة ومناقشتها لتعزز التّعبير الشّفهيّ. خلال هذا المحور أيضاً، سيّعمل المتعلم على:

التّعبير الكتابيّ: كتابة فقر وأبحاث

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